



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Shenandoah National Park News Release

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Shenandoah National Park Celebrates National Trails Day

Shenandoah National Park and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club will celebrate National Trails Day on June 3, 2006. New hikers and experienced backpackers alike are invited to learn new trail skills and practice old ones at the “Beyond the Trailhead” event from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Byrd Visitor Center.

The event is designed to give novice hikers the information they need to leave their cars behind and venture beyond the trailhead to enjoy this area’s numerous hiking and nature trails. Even the most experienced backpacker will learn new skills at the information tables and discussion groups on Leave No Trace outdoor ethics, hiking techniques, and equipment.

A variety of hikes guided by experienced Trail Patrol members will be offered for people of all ages and experience levels: hikes suitable for families with children and easy, moderate, and advanced hikes for adults. Hikers will need to meet at the registration table at Byrd Visitor Center 15 minutes before the hike time to sign in. Hikers should wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the season, and bring a lunch and plenty of water.

Hikes leaving Byrd Visitor Center:

Easy	Story of the Forest Nature Trail	1.8 mi.	9:30, 11:00, 1:00
Easy	Taste of the AT	2.0 mi.	9:45, 11:15, 12:45, 1:30
Moderate	Dark Hollow Falls Trail	1.4 mi.	9:15, 10:30, 11:45, 1:15
Moderate	Bootens Gap-Cat Knob	4.5 mi.	10:00
Advanced	Lewis Falls Trail	3.0 mi.	9:30, 1:00
Advanced	Rose River Loop Trail	6.0 mi.	9:45

(pre-registration required for Rose River hike)

To pre-register, send an email to TPNTD@patc.net by June 1. Please include your name and which hike you wish to join. Pre-registration is encouraged, but you may also register on June 3 at Byrd Visitor Center.

There are no fees to attend or participate in any hike, workshop, or event connected with “Beyond the Trailhead”; however, there is a \$15-per-car entrance fee to the park (good for seven days). “Beyond the Trailhead” celebrates the annual National Trails Day, organized and sponsored by the American Hiking Society.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) is a non-profit volunteer organization and member club of the Appalachian Trail Conference. The PATC assumes responsibility for cooperative maintenance and visitor services along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and many other foot trails and associated facilities in the Shenandoah National Park and in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Shenandoah National Park and PATC have been jointly involved in the stewardship of trails since the Park’s establishment in 1936.

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Trail Patrol is the education and outreach arm of PATC. Trail Patrol members hike area trails to offer information and assistance to hikers and backpackers who need their help. Trail Patrol volunteers report trail conditions to PATC trail maintainers, and offer public classes in beginning and intermediate backpacking, hike leadership training, and Leave No Trace outdoor ethics.

For more information about the event, visit the PATC website at

<http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol/Outreach/ntdinfo.htm> or contact Trail Patrol at TrailPatrol@patc.net. For more information on the park and Byrd Visitor Center, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/shen. Byrd Visitor Center lies within the park at milepost 51 on Skyline Drive.

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